



Newsletter

No. 14

December 1979

WOMEN

Lutheran World Federation

God's womb, conceive in us

Within the joyful, confidence-bringing stimulus of the women's movement, Christian feminists world-wide are offering a fresh dimension and vitality to the interpretation of the Scriptures. Sally Dyck, a pastor with United Methodist Church in Ohio, USA, and a student this year at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute near Geneva, produced this poem plus an accompanying study paper as part of her work at the School.

For all its beauty, the poem's symbolism is not to be seen as an end in itself. Rather it is imagery offered as a bridge between our everyday reality and a fuller, deeper religious experience.

Transforming womb of God,
Conceive in us.
Create anew life:

Faith, the confidence to bear
Hope, continuously expectant
Love, the true beginning.

Breaking forth your living waters,
O birthing-Spirit,
Streaming grace upon us,
Waters from your belly,
Cleansing us, causing us to be
whole, giving us this living water,
Overflowing our cup, thirsting
no more, longing for your welling
pool, healing as the juices of
crushed aloe.
Breaking waters, life-giving
Spirit, trusting in your presence
through the rushing rapids.

Kind hands upon your full belly;
Expecting the yet unseen,
Anticipating the given moment,
Moving with your birthing rhythms,
Breathing with the pain.
Body suffering, shedding blood.
Dying into life from dark
Night of the uniting womb.
Signs of new beginnings
Casting forth into light.
Meeting of the Creator and newly born,
A joyful morning ! A jubilee !
First-born, your name upon us,
Our name engraved upon your palm.

Hearing our nightly crying-
the sick, the brokenhearted, the
bound, the foolish, the weak,
the unlovely-
Offering your loving breast,
our banquet table,
Warm milk of sustenance, given
freely, freely flowing,
flowing in abundance.

Nurturing the Nurturer: our mission
In memory of your body and your blood,
Returning our cup to the thirsty;
Working together, labourers of the Body,
Lovers in our service.
Your whole creation, our field;
Your wisdom, our teacher;
Your inspiration, our vision;
Your presence, our altar.

Transforming Womb of God,
Conceive in us.
Create anew life:

Faith, the confidence to bear
Hope, continuously expectant
Love, the true beginning.

*Taken by permission, WCC One World
No. 47 June, 1979.*

— Prayers —

Let us pray: for young and adults who act as examples to children moving towards maturity that God will grant us all, children and adults, the trust and patience we need to enrich each other's lives.

Come Lord

Do not smile and say you are already with us.
Millions do not know you and to us who do, what is the difference?

What is the point of your presence if our lives do not alter?
Change our lives, shatter our complacency, Make your word flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood and our life's purpose. Take away the quietness of a clear conscience.

Press us uncomfortably.
For only thus that other peace is made, your peace.
Dom Helder Câmara

Have mercy, Lord, on those whom war or oppression or famine have robbed of home and friends, and aid all who seek to help them. We commend to you those whose homes are broken, who are orphaned and lonely. Grant that where human love has failed Christians may show your compassion. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty Father,

We praise you for keeping tomorrow in your hands because we are afraid of it.

We trust you to take away our fright like our mother who held us in the dark when the light went out....

Merciful Jesus

Come and walk with us as we carry our loads for when we see you carrying such a heavy load for all the world, we feel the urge to help you.

You always give us extra strength to help others carry their loads.

O Spirit who never leaves us, we know you are here and there, changing things for the better, and we need you very much. Things are just not right today and we want to change them. Give us power to face trouble and not fall down, because we know Jesus wants us to change the wrong things in our world and to make tomorrow better than today.

We feel we can do it, but we never will do it without your power.

Thank you God, for the hope that keeps us going.

Amen.

Roy Neehall

The key to social development

by Göran Sterky

A person's need to give and a person's need to love can be most clearly seen within the family. Everyone has directly or indirectly experienced the irresistible wish to care for an infant, assist a young child or engage in a dialogue with a growing individual. The need to foster that most precious gift that makes us what we are is felt by everyone, be they parents or not. But we have not reached the goal that all children should be welcome children; so many in the world still have to fight for their own survival and question whether there will be a tomorrow. In spite of these uncertainties families love and make sacrifices for their children, they take rational decisions and set priorities for their benefit. An awareness of this fact should never leave us - a fundamental principle for all social development is total trust in people.

Decades of international endeavour to create a world order founded upon peace and justice have had very limited success. Time pressure has added a stark dimension of grimness to the difficulties that confront mankind: hunger, sickness, homelessness and deprivation from cultural stimulation. The world seems to be in a techno-social turmoil. But there is a growing consciousness that we must overcome the psychological barrier for a change to another direction of development. This means a closer look at human rights, the fulfilment of basic needs for all people in the world, and a new international social and economic order. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1959, recognized the need for special safeguards for children. It proclaims, among other things, the child's right to healthy growth and development supported by special care and protection, and urges special care for the child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped.

The tragic fact is that the great majority of children in the Third World fall into this category of those requiring "special care" because of their socio-economic disadvantages. The parameters of suffering and the problems of children in the Third World are silent and insidious: death by degrees; the surface drama of disease often only crowns and concludes, but largely obscures, the gradual disintegration produced by protein-energy malnutrition, common infectious diseases and social deprivation. This slow "social" dying is too often met with indifference by the majority of those rich in power and wealth. We cannot claim any satisfactory solution in any of the areas of food, human settlement, health, education or human rights until we have, as a primary obligation, confronted the critical vulnerability of children and secured their future.

The founders of WHO recognized the importance of a child's welfare for the attainment of health and, in setting the objectives in the Constitution, they wrote that WHO should be required to "Promote maternal and child health and welfare, and foster the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment".

Experiences in Maternal and Child Health (MCH), taken in its broad meaning of continuous promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care for mothers, children and adolescents, have taught us important lessons: that the interrelationship and interdependence of health with social and economic development are crucial; that health care system alone (and still less by medical services alone); and that, foremost, it is the family (with all the variations of structure which exist in the world) which is the first functioning health unit in any society.

Workers in MCH, who have always been working with the community and who have always been in dialogue with the family, have been in the best position to interpret these experiences. Why then, despite the national and international declarations geared to the well-being of children and mothers, despite the good intentions and sensitivity of workers in MCH, why is the health of mothers and children still so far from the desirable level?

In general, health issues have a low profile in national and international debates. This is paradoxical, actually, since everywhere health has a symbolic value. Consciously or subconsciously, health is very important to people. Even people living below subsistence level are spending a considerable amount of their time and money on alleviating suffering, be it through their own efforts, or those of traditional practitioners, or modern health workers. Everyone has felt the all-embracing joy when someone, especially a child, in the family recovers from a serious illness, the great sense of security when health needs are met. This should leave us in no doubt of the value of health as an entry point for social well-being and development.

About two-thirds of most populations are women in childbearing age and children under the age of 15. Thus, MCH workers were asked to promote the health of the majority of the people in the world- with hardly any support or resources. In addition to the fact that health ministries have a less important position in most government structures, there are rarely strong MCH units within them. Explicit social welfare policies for women and children are rarely found, and national charters of legislative measures, usually do not exist.

Besides their large numbers, mothers and children are a vulnerable group and most seriously hit by adverse environment, poverty and

ill-health . The gross inequalities in health status in the world are nowhere more visible than among mothers and children. But in the past the international marketing of "vulnerability" and "population at risk" was based on the notion of the passive recipient. Thus "vulnerability" and risk" were misinterpreted: it was thought that action should be taken only because of charity and not because of the rights of the child or of the development issue involved. This indeed failed to persuade countries to divert resources away from the purely "economic growth" investments. Instead of spending health money on those most needing it, health expenditure concentrated on the urban few and on over-sophisticated medical technologies. It was only some countries both small and large - that saw the child within the social context and that saw the benefits of investment in children for the present and future generations. The improvement in the quality of life of today's generations in those countries is most reassuring and bears witness to the value of giving real priority to MCH.

In the past few decades, too, the gleaming advances of biomedical science and technology, and medical professionalism itself, began to dominate and overshadow the role of people of families in health care. Decision - making about illness always begins in the family, an even if health workers' assistance is sought, it is the family that carries out the management of illness. More and more, it is realised that illness behaviour, rather than disease behavior is the critical variable. Especially in the areas of nutrition, childbirth, childbearing and sanitation, people's own traditional ways of coping were mostly ignored and, rather than trying to build or improve on these methods that people understand and use, new and usually inappropriate methods were promoted which were often rejected by the people. The tragedy of people's under-utilization of available meagre health services, of the death and illness toll of switching from breastfeeding to bottle-feeding, and the distortion of child development due to early separation of mother and infants in modern maternities are bitter experiences.

The analyses of past experiences show that when health care services did achieve full coverage and the health status of people did improve, the health of mothers and children was always given high priority. But the health status of hundreds of millions today is still unacceptable and has been brought to the attention of governments and international bodies throughout the world. "The attainments by all people of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life" was proclaimed by the Member States of WHO as the social target for the world community. The Declaration of the International Conference on primary Health Care (PHC) in Alma - Ata in september 1978 reconfirmed this goal, and put forth an outline of a strategy to attain this target. After the painful lessons of the last decades, and in the spirit of genuine will for another direction of development, the time is ripe for health services, including those specifically for mothers and children, to put their

own house in order, in line with the primary health care concept and approach. MCH is the logical entry point for PHC and turn offers primary health care the best opening for community participation and contact with families. In fact issues of PHC reach their full expression in the health care of mothers and children.

Equal opportunity for the participation of women and men in development, the equal distribution of available social resources, and continuous health support to all families are among the basic guidelines. Many of the decisions needed to develop societies in this directions have to be taken by governments and communities. However, the application of these guidelines begins in the family, where an open discussion between husband and wife or between other members of the family, on issues such as distribution of work, household economy, childbearing and child health, would be called for. Workers in MCH are in a key position to share information with families and give support in all relevant areas.

Had health been given the priority it requires, had family health been given the political support it needs, had MCH been a priority within the health care system, and MCH workers utilized available resources in the best way, we would not have had to meet in Alma-Ata. If the revolution which took place in medical knowledge and services had also taken place in health, there would have surely been a very different social and economic distribution profile in and between countries today.

There are many successful experiences in recent years which have shown how major improvements in the health of millions of children can be accomplished in a very short period of time. We must look together to gain inspiration from these experiences in order to meet the challenge we face. This brings us back to trusting in people, and giving value to the love of children as our richest resources for today's and tomorrow's human development. This is basic to what we mean by the slogan: a healthy child, a sure future.

Reprinted with permission, "World Health" Magazine, WHO, February - March 1979.

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1. The world seems to be in a techno-social turmoil.
But there is a growing consciousness that we must overcome the psychological barriers for change to another direction of development. What does it mean to you?
 2. "A healthy child , a sure future".
What do you understand by this slogan? What steps can an individual family take for the improvement of health conditions in the family as well as in a society ?
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Monitoring Changes in the Conditions of Women

A Critical Review of Possible Approaches

by Ulrike von Buchwald and Ingrid Palmer

(Summary by Éva Zabolai-Csekme)

This study is based on the recognition that socio-economic changes do not affect all segments of society equally and that there is a need to systematically "monitor" changes in women's conditions.

The aim of the study is to design a monitoring system on changes in women's conditions. As a first step, data resources such as statistical information and information relating to women's role in the cultural, social and political system needed to be examined and their usefulness assessed, and most important additional data needed to be identified. Critical problem areas were singled out in order to demonstrate possible negative effects of socio-economic change on women and to illustrate the need for a monitoring system.

Chapter II, dealing with "Perspectives on the differential effects of major socio-economic changes on women and men" focuses on three areas:

- a) Changes in agricultural production
- b) The impact on women of industrialization and urbanization
- c) Women's conditions as determined by social structure

With regard to agriculture, it is noted that in most traditional societies the division of labour is sex-specific. This labour division has far-reaching consequences, not only for the different social groups, but also for the community as a whole. When colonial rule and the more recent influences of technology altered existing patterns, it was more often than not to the detriment of women. There is statistical evidence that in many so-called modernized villages women work longer hours than in traditional ones. Also, concerning allocation of land and labour resources, women often lost their authority. Technological change can often deprive women of their only income-earning possibility and the social status which is attained from it. A woman's loss of control of her family's output or revenue results in a substantial drop in the woman's share of income. (Wristwatches, transistors, bicycles appear to be largely utilized by men, while the diet and appearance of the women and children decline.)

Modernization of agriculture can bring about new infra-familial relationships as well as the marginalization of women without reducing their labour-participation. It is noted that women usually have no control over these changes and as a result often become hostile to innovation in general.

The study suggests that special attention should be paid to cooperatives and land reform, for they especially affect the situation of women in a positive or negative way.

Industrialization and urbanization are contributing to the destruction of cottage industries and through that an important source of income for women is being lost. Industrial employment of women is, however, highly problematic. Due to unemployment in general, women are the last to be hired, due to lack of skill-training they get the lowest-paid jobs and due to maternity and family problems they often lose their jobs.

Migrant women in urban areas are the most vulnerable groups. Faced with serfdom-like domestic employment they often turn to prostitution as the only available opportunity for upward mobility.

The diminishing of the role of the household as the basic unit of production contributes to the woman's loss of status. While men are compensated by direct access to cash earnings, women are relegated to the reproduction of the labour force, to household duties and, in some cases, to supplementing their husbands' earnings.

Chapter III deals with "limitations of current data and information for monitoring changes in women's conditions". - Here it is noted that the existing data are scarce, often processed with great delays and are inadequate for several reasons: data are often not broken down by gender, there is an underreporting and underestimation when it comes to social and economic parameters relating to the female population and data are often missing due to the fact that many concerns of women relate to the private and "informal" sphere. Further, analytical concepts and techniques are inadequate for proper utilization of available resources.

These problems are highlighted using the examples of the participation of women in economic activity, education and training as well as in health and nutrition. With regard to health and nutrition, existing data on health services, family planning, fertility, mortality and nutrition are examined to determine usefulness for monitoring purposes. It is recognized that statistical data related to hospital beds, family-planning centers or other health services do not give adequate information about the health of women. Attention is paid to the correlation of different data and the interpretation of these, such as fertility and employment, mortality and the status of women, mental health of women and the value attached to them by society as well as the health condition of women versus nutrition.

Chapter IV discusses the possibilities and problems of establishing national monitoring systems. Here it is noted that a future monitoring system should incorporate existing channels and structures for receiving relevant data, while extending the search of information to areas which so far have not been adequately explored. Further, it is recognized that the same monitoring system would not fit each country and modifications would have to be worked out according to the necessary variables to determine women's condition. "The basic concern should be to monitor the differential access to material resources and personal freedoms of women and men within the limitations of the prevailing economic base of a country"(p.66). Issues such as access of women to education or their situation in the labour force should be studied, not just in a simple, descriptive way, but analytically, trying to understand the root causes of the situation. Emphasis should be put on situations of transition. What happens to women in a move from a traditional to a modern way of life? What happens to her in migration from rural to urban areas? What happens to her in the different cycles of her life marked by marriage, motherhood, aging and widowhood?

Concerning the methods used for the research, both population-wide coverage and sample data-gathering are being encouraged and a balance between general profiles and particular profiles is sought. Careful identification of indicators is also necessary. These could be categorized under "causes", "processes" and "end products".

The proposed monitoring systems could help governments, planners, international organizations or local voluntary agencies to plan and carry out their services in a way that would make women equal partners in development, giving them an equal share in positive changes as well as equal protection from adverse effects of transitory situations.

LAY WOMAN TO HEAD URUGUAYAN CHURCH

Montevideo (EPS) - The first laywoman to become leader of the Uruguayan Methodist Church, Miss Margarita Grassi, took up her position as president on 15 August.

A vice president of the Church (Iglesia Evangelical Methodist en el Uruguay) for the last two years, she succeeds the Rev. Oscar Bolioli, who leaves the post after serving the maximum term. He will become director of the Mutuality on Mission Programme, at Cornell University, USA.

Book review

Role of the University in the Women's Movement

edited by Eva I. Shipstone and Norah Shipstone

This is an exploratory book which aims to discover the potential of higher education in motivating social change. In recent years Asian societies experienced radical transformation of their social, political and economic structures. Male dominated institutions, ideals and beliefs are being challenged with conviction, particularly in the light of the Women's Decade. The position of the university in this context was never clearly defined or reached.

At the Asian scholars, seminar, convened by the Asian women's Institute in Seoul in 1978, an attempt was made to determine the university's role in the women's movement. The book is an anthology of the papers presented at the seminar. It provides a penetrating analysis and an in depth study of the topic by outstanding scholars from renowned Asian universities. Provocative issues concerning the potentials of Asian universities in initiating ideological bases for the women's movement, reinforcement of sex-role stereotypes by higher education, consciousness raising, projection of women's perspectives in the university curricula, and the promotion of women's participation in national development are highlighted.

The topics cover a wide range of theme such as an ideological basis for the women's movements, the university's role in conscientizing women, historical perspectives, the relevance of women's studies, extension services, women's integration and participation in national development and their position and status in family and community life. These studies are analytical and provide directives for a future course of action by giving a balanced insight into both historical and contemporary perspectives.

Sang Chang set the tone of the book by analysing the attitudes of women and of society in determining sex-role stereotypes. The women's movement which according to her "arises from women's actual struggles with themselves, their traditions and societies," upset the prevalent status quo whereby women are supposed to "raise their children, to cook meals, to clean the house and to create a home for the rest of the family."

wasted potential is at the root of their frustration and discontentment. "In calling for equal opportunities in education, jobs and further development, the women's movement stands for fulfilment of human dignity and realization of this half of the human resources and potential. Accordingly, the women's movements is not only for the sake of women, but also for the sake of the whole community."

Margaret Mead had juxtaposed two aspects of women, one who either proclaimed herself "a woman and therefore less an achieving individual or an achieving individual and therefore less a woman." In chapter 2, Emerita S. Quito declares with conviction that the strongest force that can challenge this viewpoint is the university. Women sustained by the ideological principles developed by the university can be a "potent factor of change and national development." She feels. Prof. Quito delves into the general historical background which created a "distorted appraisal of the sexes" and traces the beginnings of the liberation process to the introduction of technical aids. She gives a comprehensive picture of the women in the Philippines. In her opinion the "supreme duty of the university is to develop critical thinking and to make manifest the egalitarian doctrine that the human mind has no sex gender."

"Centuries old traditions and ingrained practices," according to Ruby Daniel, "have governed male-female relationships, i.e. male superiority and female inferiority. There has been a double standard of morality." While providing a historical perspective into the discriminatory practices and exploitation of women. Dr. Daniel comments, "throughout history we find that there has always been a disparity between the life options of men and women, the former receiving the best.... education that provided them with more saleable skills to meet the challenges outside their homes." Dr. Daniel deals with the status of women, the educational opportunities, legal status, socio-economic and political participation in three parts. "Women in the Muslim World." "Women in India," and "women in the Far East,"

One of the tasks of the Asian university is to instill a new awareness in women of their rights and responsibilities as individuals and members of society. Soon Young S. Yoon believes that "Women's Studies is the most recent instrument of consciousness-raising. It is a point of view that can change our perception of our personal lives as well as change the role of the university in society." She emphasizes that Women's Studies courses must be made relevant to Asian culture.

Dr. Mirabai Phanuel gives an exhaustive account of the nature and impact of extension programmes in India in which educational institutions play a commendable role. The integration of women in development is facilitated by a systematic outreach into community life. Disparity between rural and urban women can be narrowed by mobilizing college students. Health and medical care, food and nutrition, population education, literacy, knowledge of legal rights, development of skills

and increasing women's participation in community life come under the purview of extension programmes. Continuing education which encompasses the needs of college dropouts, married women and women in professions is an important aspect of extension services.

Aryatimi Siswohardjono deals with the position and role of Indonesian women in every aspect of development. She highlights the life of the great Indonesian feminist leader, Raden Adjeng Kartini as a "significant event in the history of the women's movement". She traces the women's movements through the different periods of Indonesian history and presents relevant statistics.

In the concluding chapter Dr. Angelina Almanzor explores the university's potential in developing definite and relevant programmes to facilitate the integration of women in national development. "The university in a developing country should prepare students for change-provide the structure and opportunities to develop and stimulate their thinking to give wide-spread and diverse responses to problems as opportunities to solve them are opened up." She feels that the university in a developing world should provide the teaching - learning environment" to develop "creativity, intellectual moral commitment to justice and equality and habits of objective enquiry."

The papers repeatedly point out that so far definitions of human reality have been based on exclusively male perceptions. It is for the university to change this orientation and provide a new standard for a more balanced and progressive development of humankind.

AMRITA DASS.

BOOK BOOK BOOK BOOK BOOK BOOK BOOK

Compassionate and Free
by Marianne Katoppo

Published by World Council of Churches, 150 route de Ferney,
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, 1979, No. 6 in the risk book series.

The writer is a graduate from the Jakarta Theological Seminary and has been active in the Indonesian Student Christian Movement. Her pastoral and theological experience includes a variety of ecumenical assignments in Sweden, East Africa, South Korea, the German Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka. Most recently, she attended the Ecumenical Institute's Graduate School at Bossey, near Geneva.

Women Leaders

Casselia L. Stewart



Casselia L. Stewart is one of the most outstanding African Lutheran women. She was born in Monrovia, Liberia. Casselia obtained her B.Sc and LLB (Bachelors of law) degrees from the University of Liberia.

In her professional life, Casselia is a counsellor at law, member of Supreme Court Bar Association of lawyers and legal counsel Lutheran Church in Liberia. Among many other activities she is the Chairperson of the advisory committee for Urban Industrial Mission in Africa,

In September 1979 she was inducted as presiding Judge of Debt Court of Montserrado County ; Liberia. Casselia is a member of the Commission on Studies of the Lutheran World Federation, and national president of the Lutheran Church Women's Organization in Liberia.

The Reality

WE THE CHILDREN 1,5 BILLION OF US,.....

lack medical care

Every half minute 100 children are born in developing countries. Twenty of them will die within the year. Of the 80 who survive 60 will have no access to modern medical care during their childhood (Report on children, department of Social and Economic Affairs, UN 1971).

lack food

Twelve to thirteen million children die unnecessarily each year the equivalent of 120 Hiroshimas-mostly from malnutrition and hunger-related causes...(James P.Grant, President, overseas development council, world development letter, Nov.6. 1978).

lack water

Over 2,000 million human beings are without safe water. Many have little or no ready access to any water at all. At least 1,000 million of them are children. (Martin G.Beyer,"1,000 million children lack safe water," UNICEF News, water and children, Issue 91,1977.1).

lack education

If trends noted in the last few years are confirmed, the number of children between the ages of six and eleven who are not attending school in the third world countries will reach some 134 million in 1985...(John Forbes, Deputy Director General, UNESCO).

are part of the world's workforce

The population of working children under 15 years reached 52 million.. the size of the entire population of France and Great Britain.. (Bureau of statistics and special studies, International Labour Organization).

are victims of injustice...

There is mounting evidence that large numbers of school age children are being held in detention for long periods in South Africa. Frequently in solitary confinement without access to parents and family and subject to police brutality..(Special Report prepared by the International Commission of Jurists, June 15, IYC Report, August or September 1978).

are children bearing children...

The best estimate of global figure is that 10-15% of the 125 million babies born each year are born to adolescent girls..(Julia Henderson, "A Crusade for Children",p.25, people Vol.5, No, 1978)

Women, Science and Technology

Resolution of UNCSTD

The Lutheran World Federation European Consultation for Women in Vienna, Austria, June 1979 addressed the following recommendation to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCTD)

TO THE UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

We, the participants of the LWF European Consultation for Women in Vienna, June 6 - 12, 1979, focused our attention on the meaning of the rising consciousness of women for our Europe of tomorrow. In our discussions it soon became evident that the issue of disarmament and peace constituted one of the major elements of our concern. We committed ourselves to do our utmost to create just, equitable and peaceful societies. As a consequence we call upon the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development to urge politicians and researchers to do their utmost for the process of disarmament, as we see that the present arms race is leading to an enormous waste of human and economic resources on a worldwide scale.

Furthermore we urge UNCSTD to investigate the relationship between disarmament and possibilities for development, and to encourage research on how the military industry can be turned into industries which benefit humankind, e.g. alternative appropriate technology.

At the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, August 1979, the Lutheran World Federation was represented by Dr. Sibusiso M.E. Bengu. He brought in the recommendation formulated at the Lutheran World Federation European Consultation for Women.

We are happy to inform you that the recommendation passed by the Lutheran World Federation Consultation for Women contributed to an important recommendation being drawn up, which was presented at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development which took place August 1979.



UNITED NATIONS



United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

WOMEN, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development,

Mindful that the International Women's Decade was proclaimed in order to draw attention to the problems faced by women in their daily lives and to stimulate recognition at the national and international levels of the loss experienced where women, accounting for half of the world's adult population, are not given equal opportunity to contribute fully to national development,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3342(xxix) of 17 December 1974 and 3524(xxx) of 15 December 1975 on the integration of women in development, in which women in the planning, formulation, design and implementation of development projects and programmes, as well as General Assembly resolution 33/184 of 29 January 1979, on importance of the improvement of the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields for the achievement of the equality of women with men,

Recalling the relevant proposals of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year adopted at the conference of the International Women's Year at Mexico City, 1. the World Population plan of Action 2. and the World Food Conference, 3. as well as the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of the integration of women in development,

Noting the importance accorded to the integration of women in development by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its nineteenth session and at the ninth session of the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

Mindful that the Economic Commission for Africa Training and Research Centre for Women, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the World Bank have planned activities and studies concerning technological development in order to enhance women's contribution to economic life,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/34 of 5 May 1978 on women in development and international conference, in which the Council urged all Governments to ensure that the topic of women and development be included within the substantive discussions of the Conference, including the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development,

Recognizing the importance of the present quantity and quality of the contribution of women, and its potential value where fully and appropriately utilized and developed, for the well-being and health of their families and societies as a whole,

1. Invites Member States to facilitate:

(a) The equal distribution of the benefits of scientific and technological development and its application to men and women in society,

(b) The participation of women in the decision making process related to science and technology, including planning and setting priorities for research and development and in the choice, acquisition, adaptation, innovation, and application of science and technology for development,

(c) The equal access for women and men to scientific and technological training and to the respective professional careers,

2. Recommends that all organs, organizations and other bodies of the United Nations system related to science and technology should:

(a) Continually review the impact of their programmes and activities of women,

(b) Promote the full participation of women in planning and implementation of their programmes,

3. Invites the proposed intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) To give due regard to the perspectives and interests of women in all its recommendations, programmes and actions,

(b) To include in its annual reports a review on the progress made concerning the implementation of the tenets of the present solution:

4. Recommends to the forthcoming World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and peace, scheduled to be held in 1980, to give due consideration to the relationships between women, science, technology and development.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS:

DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Dates : 14 - 30 July 1980.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark, at the " Bella Centre".

Participation: Governments, specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations, inter- governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Secretary-
General: Mrs. Lucille Mathurin Mair, former Jamaican Ambassador to Cuba(1978- 79) and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1975-78).

REASON FOR THE CONFERENCE:

Women form half the population of the world. But in an unequal world they remain dependent, discriminated against and disadvantaged. This conference will:

- Take stock of what has been achieved in the first five years of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1976-1985, by reviewing progress made and obstacles encountered in carrying out the World Plan of Action adopted by the 1975 Mexico Conference.
- Design a specific action -oriented programme for the next five years, with specific emphasis on the areas of Employment, Health and Education.
- Examine the tragic situation of apartheid on women in southern Africa and draft special measures for assistance.

The proposed agenda for the World Conference covers these major issues.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE:

A preparatory Committee for the World Conference, composed of representatives from 23 countries, met last summer in Vienna. The second meeting is scheduled for New York, 27 August - 7 September 1979.

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will consider the major documents being prepared at its next meeting in early 1980.

Regional preparatory meetings, involving member governments of each of the United Nations regional economic commissions, will be held between July and November 1979. Problems of women in each of the world's geographic regions will be examined and programmes for the second half of the Decade will be proposed.

- Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
9 - 12 July - Paris, France
- Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)
12 - 16 November - Caracas, Venezuela
- Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)
6 - 9 October - Damascus, Syria
- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
17 - 20 October - Lusaka, Zambia
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
5 - 9 November - New Delhi, India.

United Nations specialized agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have scheduled sectoral meetings on subjects of importance of women.

The reports of these meetings will be a significant contribution to the Copenhagen Conference.

BACKGROUND:

United Nations Decade for Women : Equality, Development and Peace 1975 was proclaimed International Women's Year (IWY) by the United Nations, out of a growing recognition that full and equal participation of women was essential to world development and peace.

The focal point of the year was the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico City, 19 June - 2 July 1975. The major achievement of the Conference was the adoption of a World Plan of Action - a global consensus on what should be done to improve the condition of women, economically, socially and politically.

The Mexico Conference also recommended that another international women's conference be held in 1980.

Another direct outcome of the IWY and Conference was the General Assembly's 1975 proclamation of the years 1976-1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. It is a

time for specific action on the national, regional and international levels - geared to carrying out the recommendations in the World Plan of Action.

MEDIA FACILITIES:

Regular United Nations Press and other media facilities will be available at the Conference Centre. Applications for accreditations to cover the Conference should be sent to:Accreditations office, Room 386. United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S. A.

ENCOUNTER FOR JOURNALISTS:

The Division for Economic and Social Information will conduct a two-day pre-Conference briefing for journalists at the "Bella Centre" on 10 and 11 July 1980.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations will participate in the Conference as observers. For more information contact Ms. Virginia Saurwein, Room 1850-A, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A. Tel. (212) 754-6451.

FOR OTHER INFORMATION:

Please contact: Information Officer
DESI DPI - Room 1061-I
1980 World Conference for Women
United Nations Secretariat
New York, N.Y.10017 U.S.A.
Tel.:(212) 754-6868.

MAKE BEST USE OF THE NEWSLETTER

1. Discuss with your women's group those topics which you think are most helpful for them.
 2. Translate the articles into your local language if English, French or German are not understood in the group.
 3. Send us articles which you would like to share with other women in different parts of the world through our newsletter.
 4. Share the copies as much as possible.
 5. We welcome criticism, comments and suggestions related to the contents, format and style of the newsletter.
- * Permission to reprint articles, should be obtained from the original source unless otherwise stated.



LA PARTICIPATION AUX DECISIONS

LES FEMMES ET LES RELATIONS PROFESSIONNELLES

Bien que les femmes aient fait d'appréciables progrès sur la voie de l'indépendance économique et hors de l'activité essentiellement ménagère dans laquelle on les cantonnait auparavant, de sérieuses améliorations doivent encore être apportées à leur situation particulièrement dans le domaine de leur participation au marché du travail et dans les processus de prise de décisions.

L'accroissement du nombre des travailleuses n'a pas été de pair avec une plus forte participation des femmes, ni de la représentation des intérêts féminins dans le système de relations professionnelles. Pourtant cette situation pourrait être modifiée par la croissance rapide et la "féminisation" du secteur des services ainsi que par l'implantation des syndicats dans ce dernier. En effet, les syndiquées dans ce secteur pourraient utiliser leur force numérique pour infléchir les structures du pouvoir syndical de manière que celles-ci représentent plus fidèlement leurs propres intérêts. Le fait que les femmes attendent des syndicats

qu'ils règlent leurs problèmes de travail les poussent à se syndiquer. L'adhésion des femmes aux organisations professionnelles n'est cependant pas inconditionnelle et si les structures syndicales, actuellement dominées par les hommes, ne se montrent pas assez attentives aux besoins des travailleuses, celles-ci pourraient en être réduites à chercher leurs propres solutions dans des organisations parallèles, et peut-être rivales.

Même là où le mouvement syndical a gagné du terrain parmi les travailleuses, celles-ci sont représentées dans une proportion plus faible que leurs camarades masculins dans les organisations où l'on prend des décisions et élabore des lignes de conduite. Il est ressorti des débats que la situation se présente de manière sensiblement identique dans l'entreprise et dans les organisations patronales où les femmes qui y assument des responsabilités s'occupent de sujets moins brûlants mais, par exemple, de questions sociales et d'apprentissage.

On a tenté d'expliquer ce phénomène par des modes de comportement et des obstacles structurels et notamment en faisant valoir que les femmes ayant atteint des postes élevés dans les organismes de relations professionnelles ont tendance à adopter une attitude protectrice ou secourable, reproduisant par là le stéréotype social de la femme pleine de sollicitude, mais limitant gravement leur sphère d'influence et d'efficacité dans la négociation collective et le règlement des conflits - domaines où précisément les questions d'égalité se posent.

L'utilité des départements, services, etc., pour les questions féminines est l'une de celles qui présente un problème de structure; certes, sans eux, les problèmes propres aux travailleuses risqueraient de disparaître dans la masse des questions générales, mais ces services risquent d'isoler les travailleuses et de les écarter des activités courantes de relations professionnelles. De l'avis général, l'une des principales fonctions de ces départements, services, etc., doit être de s'employer à devenir inutiles.

La législation et les négociations collectives forment deux moyens complémentaires de promouvoir les intérêts féminins. Le choix de celle-là et de celles-ci étant dicté avant tout par la situation et les traditions nationales. Les participants s'accordaient à reconnaître qu'un rôle déterminant incombe aux partenaires en matière de relations professionnelles dans l'adoption et la mise en oeuvre d'une législation appropriée. Il semblerait que les syndicats se montrent parfois tièdes partisans d'une législation

ressentie par eux comme empiétant sur leurs fiefs traditionnels. Malgré cette réticence, des textes récents portant sur l'égalité de rémunération, de chances et de traitement ont introduit quelques innovations dans le rôle des syndicats, que des commissions paritaires et des tribunaux du travail nouvellement établis chargent dorénavant de veiller à l'application de ces textes au nom de leurs membres. D'aucuns ont aussi affirmé que les employeurs pouvaient influencer sur le processus législatif en faisant preuve d'esprit novateur dans la gestion et la planification du personnel.

La question de la législation protectrice a suscité de vives discussions, certains orateurs ayant suggéré que la protection sélective d'une législation applicable aux seules travailleuses pouvait en réalité favoriser la discrimination en réduisant leurs occasions d'emploi réelles et en puissance, comme cela se serait produit dans certains pays, où la promotion des travailleuses aurait ainsi été entravée. L'idée selon laquelle les travailleuses forment une réserve de main-d'oeuvre n'a pas disparu, bien que les taux de participation féminine s'accroissent; tant que cette attitude subsistera, il sera fort difficile d'amener les employeurs et les dirigeants syndicaux à améliorer la qualité de la vie professionnelle pour les travailleuses.

Le colloque a envisagé plusieurs domaines qui se prêteraient à une amélioration des possibilités d'emploi et de la qualité de la vie pour les femmes. Dans de nombreux pays, les études, la carrière et l'orientation pro-

professionnelle sont empreintes de discrimination sexuelle et contribuent par là à canaliser les femmes vers des emplois où le prestige et la rémunération sont médiocres. Il s'impose par exemple de modifier les objectifs de l'éducation et d'améliorer les facilités de formation et de recyclage pour élargir le choix si restreint des professions exercées par les femmes et par là même d'améliorer leurs possibilités de travail et leur sécurité dans l'emploi. Le choix entre divers types d'horaires et certaines formules d'horaires souples pourraient aussi favoriser une plus forte participation des femmes à l'emploi, tout comme une législation innovatrice encourageant les pères à prendre leur part des soins aux enfants est de nature à le faire. De plus, les infrastructures sociales pourraient être grandement améliorées pour faciliter les soins aux enfants, ce qui déchargerait les mères et leur permettrait de participer plus aisément à la main-d'oeuvre. Les changements apportés dans le domaine du travail feront forcément sentir leur effet sur la société en général, en donnant aux femmes plus de temps à consacrer à leur vie communautaire et sociale.

Les femmes sont conscientes de ce que leur rôle traditionnel au foyer est très productif en soi mais aussi du fait que sa valeur est négative dans la plupart des sociétés industrialisées où la société attache beaucoup d'importance à l'activité professionnelle lucrative.

Dorothea Gaudart, ministère fédéral autrichien des affaires sociales, Vienne et

Rose-Marie Greve, Institut international d'études sociales, Genève.

Article paru dans "Femmes au travail" /BIT

1/1979

Avec la permission de la rédactrice Krishna Ahooja-Patel.

BISCHÖFE TRAFEN VEREINIGUNG DER KATHOLISCHEN FRAUENBEWE- GUNGEN

In Utrecht fand die erste Sitzung der niederländischen Frauenbewegungen des Landes statt. Wie Kardinal Willebrands vor der Versammlung betonte, begrüßten die Bischöfe den Beginn der Gespräche ausserordentlich. Denn die Frau habe nicht nur immer eine wichtige Rolle in der Glaubensverbreitung gespielt, sondern sie widme sich vielen notwendigen und nützlichen Aktivitäten. Die Vertreterinnen der Frauenbewegungen trugen bei dieser Gelegenheit ihre Hauptprobleme vor, an deren erster Stelle die Erziehung der Kinder zur christlichen Lehre, aber auch die Weiterbildung der Frauen auf sozialem wie religiösem Gebiet stand. Um die Kinder und sich selbst zeitgemäss zu unterrichten, geht das Bestreben der Frauenbewegungen dahin, Weiterbildungskurse zu organisieren.

Gefordert wurde, dass die heute im Pastoraleinsatz stehenden Männer sich den Frauen und ihren Problemen offener zeigen mögen und Vorschläge und Initiativen der Frauen mehr als bisher begrüßen würden. Im allgemeinen sehen es die Vertreter der Frauenbewegungen als negativ an, dass sie auch heute noch nicht aktiver bei kirchlichen Unternehmen beteiligt werden, wo dieser Schritt in der Gesellschaft schon lange vollzogen wurde.

Abschliessend wurde die Aufnahme des Gespräches von beiden Seiten als positiv hingestellt, mit dem Resultat, dass der ersten Sitzung noch weitere folgen werden.

KANZLER SCHMIDT BESUCHT CAMPO SANTO TEUTONICO

Bundeskanzler Helmut Schmidt hat im Rahmen seines zweieinhalbtägigen Rombesuches dem Campo Santo Teutonico, - dem auf Karl den Grossen zurückgehenden Friedhof des deutschen Sprach- und Kulturraums beim Petersdom, einen Besuch abgestattet. Der Kanzler liess sich vom Rektor der Erzbruderschaft und des Priesterkollegs beim Campo Santo Teutonico, Prälat Prof. Erwin Gatz, die Geschichte dieser ältesten Stiftung des deutschen Kulturraums erläutern und den Friedhof sowie die vor einigen Jahren restaurierte Kirche zur Schmerzhafte Muttergottes zeigen.

Bundesminister a.D. Georg Leber, der den Kanzler bei den Besichtigungen begleitete, gab während des Besuchs bekannt, dass es ihm als Leiter des Vereins der Freunde und Förderer des Campo Santo Teutonico in Deutschland gelungen sei, den von dem Förderkreis zugesagten Betrag von rund 59.000,- Sfr. als Beitrag zu den Restaurierungskosten zusammenzutragen.

Erstmals Oberkirchenrätin im lutherischen Kirchenamt

Pastorin Käte Mahn (36), seit 1976 Studieninspektorin am Predigerseminar der hannoverschen Landeskirche in Hildesheim, ist von der Kirchenleitung der Vereinigten Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche Deutschlands (VELKD) als Oberkirchenrätin in das Lutherische Kirchenamt in Hannover berufen worden. Sie wird dort am 1. Januar 1980 Nachfolgerin von Oberkirchenrat Dr. Niels Hasselmann, der am 1. Oktober seine neue Aufgabe als Propst des Kirchenkreises Lübeck antritt.

Käte Mahn ist die erste Frau, die als Oberkirchenrätin in das Lutherische Kirchenamt berufen wurde. Sie wird dort vor allem für ökumenische Studien in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Lutherischen Weltbund und für die Beziehungen zu den Kirchen in Lateinamerika zuständig sein. Ökumenische Erfahrungen sammelte die Theologin unter anderem während eines zweijährigen Studienaufenthaltes in den USA.

Resource Persons

With this page we start an information section on outstanding leaders who can be considered for invitations as speakers to conferences and seminars.

The following persons are specialized in the area of Women and Development.

Dr. Krishna Ahooja-Patel

From India, holds a Ph.D degree in international relations from the University of Geneva, and is a barrister-at-law, Inner Temple, London. For several years she worked as a lawyer and journalist. Since 1969, when she joined the International Labour Office in Geneva, her areas of work have included employment, migration, labour law and general development questions. At present Dr. Patel is assigned to the Office for Women Worker's Questions.

She is editor of the ILO periodical "Women at Work". She published several articles related to women and development, women and trade unions and women and employment.

*Her address: International Labour Office
Rue des Morillons 4
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. (022) 996770.*

Dr. Rahantavololona. R. Andriamanjato.

She is a civil engineer for the Ministry of works and for fourteen years has been responsible for the supply of drinking water to the towns of Madagascar. As part of this responsibility she is also co-director of an important project of the World Health Organization and the United Nations which is particularly concerned with the water supply of Tananarive. She is a teacher at the University of Tananarive in Applied Hydraulic which gives her opportunity for contacts with both students and staff.

Apart from her many professional activities Madame Andriamanjato is herself a lay preacher of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar and deeply involved in grass-roots evangelism and conscientisation. She is a pastor's wife, a mother and a member of the National women's commission of the Church of Christ in Madagascar.

*Her address: Dr. Rahantavololona R. Andriamanjato
1, Rue Rangita Mpihira
Antannarivo
Madagascar.*

" THE AFRICAN WOMAN'S QUEST FOR A NEW ORDER "

The LWF All Africa Women's Consultation will take place in Gaborone, Botswana, March 2-10, 1980.

This consultation is being organized by the LWF upon recommendations from the LWF International Consultation in Sri Lanka, 1976, the LWF All Africa Conference in Botswana, and the LWF General Assembly in Dar-es-Salaam in 1977.

Under the overall theme:

"The African Woman's Quest for a New Order"

three major topics will be discussed, which the preparatory committee regarded as vital.

1. Women in Development
2. Women in Politics and law
3. Women in Theology and Church Structures

The speakers for the consultation will be

1. Ms. Lile.A.W. Monze / Zambia
2. Dr. Rahantavololna R. Andriamanjato /Madagascar
3. Dr. Annie R. Jiagge /Ghana
4. Ms. Daisy Obi /Nigeria

Some Church leaders and LWF officials are also invited to attend the consultation.

The President of the LWF Bishop Joshua Kibira has kindly accepted to preach the opening sermon.

The consultation will unite about 75 women from all over Africa, including a large number of ecumenical participants.

We ask you to keep this event in your thoughts and prayers.

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LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION / DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES

WOMEN'S DESK: Belletech Deressa , Eva Segal, Eva Zabolai-Csekme

150, Rte de Ferny, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland
